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MEMORANDUM TO THE FILES:

Subject: JIOA Meeting, May 6, 1946.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE 1045C/MR
May 6, 1946

REVIEWED BY John DATE 3/12/81

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This morning I met with JIOA members in Captain Wev's office, room 2205, Munitions Building. There were present, in addition to Captain Wev, Lieut. Colonel Cranford, Colonel Hagood and Captain Duborg. Various items of no interest to the State Department were discussed. The following appeared, however:

1. The Committee had drawn up a procedure for transmission to War and Navy (J.I.O.A. 1/3/D, April 30, 1946). I called attention to a footnote and asked whether the language in the last sentence of the footnote meant that the Committee was withholding preparatory action on any of the scientists now in the United States pending the advice from the State Department on the procedure necessary to effect their entry as immigrants. There seemed to be some slight confusion, especially in Captain Wev's mind, but Colonel Hagood explained that G-2 was asking for dossiers on all those people without regard to the State Department memorandum, and that he interpreted the provision to mean that action with respect to those in the United States would have to await the State Department's memorandum on requirements. This was generally agreed to.

2. It was agreed to request J.I.C. to downgrade the various J.I.C. documents from top secret to secret, leaving the denial portions top secret. In this connection I raised the question of the issuance of any public statement with respect to the denial policy; I pointed out that the newspaper men would be bound to get the story, especially since I had heard that the denial program was discussed in the Department of Commerce and, therefore, undoubtedly with various private corporations, such as duPont. Colonel Cranford pointed out that the maintenance of the top secret classification with respect to denial would have the effect of preventing public relations officers from commenting.

Captain Duborg,

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Captain Duborg, Colonel Hagood and Colonel Cranford said that they could not control the statements of the Secretary of War or Secretary of the Navy to the press apart from that. I pointed out that the State Department would be much concerned with having a consistent story and that we would have to carry the burden in this respect. This appeared to be generally agreed to. It was finally decided that at the next meeting a draft of the story on the denial aspects would be prepared for submission to J.I.C. and by J.I.C. to SWNCC.

3. The French, it appeared, have requested that the four powers in Germany exchange lists and whereabouts of German scientists and technicians, but the British are unwilling to do so, although they will have to comply if they have no support from the United States. It generally appeared that this was not our problem. I pointed out later, however (in connection with the foregoing point), that the French request was probably part of a program to smoke out the United States on the whole issue of disarmament of Germany, etc.. A document, J.I.O.A. 1/5/M, May 3, 1946, was submitted. It is a request from Wev to Army and Navy for the appointment of a Legal Committee.

4. The question was raised by Captain Wev (and apparently discussed by the others privately) as to the propriety of my meeting with Mr. David Somers without clearance with J.I.O.A. It appeared that Colonel Hagood had felt that this was not "cooperative" and this view was announced by Captain Wev. I explained that the Assistant Secretary of State, who had arranged the meeting, was no doubt empowered to discuss any matters with the Assistant Secretary of War without clearing with Captain Wev, and that it was not my duty or privilege to notify Captain Wev of the activities of the Assistant Secretary of State unless that was called for in the Charter of the J.I.O.A. I pointed out that it was up to the Assistant Secretary of War to find out who, in his Department, was concerned with the problem if he wished to consult him. I stated finally that the purpose of the telephone call was simply to make sure that the War Department assigned able lawyers to the Legal Subcommittee. I pointed out further that the Visa Division would, undoubtedly,

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before submitting a memorandum to the J.I.O.A., wish to discuss certain problems with the Immigration authorities or others, and that this would hardly be cleared with Captain Wev first; and I pointed out that likewise conversations were going on undoubtedly in the War and Navy Departments before submission to this Committee which were also not being cleared with the J.I.O.A. The members seemed to be satisfied with the explanation, although Captain Wev had opened his remarks by inquiring whether my conversation in the War Department had been personal or on behalf of the Department.

5. It appears that the J.I.O.A. does not consider that it is concerned with captured German documents. Captain Wev stated that this is the function of G-2 in the War Department.

6. The Committee agreed to meet on call, hereafter, on Tuesdays. I pointed out that many of the matters discussed here did not concern the State Department so far as I could see, and that we were interested almost entirely only in the German scientist problems. I suggested that I be notified of the Agenda of the proposed meeting in order that it might be determined if the State Department had an interest in attending. Captain Wev stated that he could not tell in advance what questions other members might wish to raise. I stated that the State Department could not be bound by decisions reached at meetings of which the Department had not had adequate notice. The Committee concluded, however, that the matter could be handled by the call procedure.

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